payment of the concessional fare of First Class plus the difference of actual fares of the two classes. There is no proposal to extend the concession to the A.C. 2-tier class.

[Translation]

Rehabilitation of Tribals

*376. SHRI HANSRAJ AHIR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether due to announcement of setting up of a national park or sanctuary, the tribals are compelled to move to other places as no developmental activity is allowed in such forest areas;

(b) if so, the number of tribals displaced from the declared national parks and sanctuaries; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for rehabilitation of the displaced tribals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) Relocation of tribals from a National Park or a Sanctuary is done when there is a general agreement between the tribals and the Government on the issue. However, commercial development is not allowed in National Parks and Sanctuaries.

(b) and (c). The Government of India has launched a Centrally Sponsored 'Beneficiary Oriented Scheme for Tribal Development' wherein 100% financial assistance is provided to the State Government for the rehabilitation of tribal families. During VIII Plan, financial support to the tune of Rs. 1.30 crore to six States has been provided under the Scheme. 188 tribal families have been rehabilitated while the process is on going for 235 families.

[English]

Drought Prone Areas of Orissa

*377. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :
SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the drought and starvation situation has been witnessed in Orissa during the last several years;

(b) if so, the names of districts mostly affected and the estimated loss suffered therein during the last three years;

(c) whether the Union Government authorities ever visited the affected areas of the State to make an assessment of drought and starvation situation;

(d) if so, the scheme formulated to find out permanent solution of this problem in the State; and,

(e) the assistance provided by the Government to implement such schemes during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) to (e). According to the State Government drought and starvation situation have not been witnessed in Orissa during the last few years. In the context of the problems of poverty in Kalahandi, Bolangir and Koraput districts, now reorganized into Kalahandi, Naupada, Bolangir, Sonepur, Koraput, Malkangiri, Nowrangpur and Rayagada, Central Teams have visited Orissa from time to time since 1993. The Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) is being implemented in 47 blocks of 5 districts for achieving a permanent solution to the problems of drought. The Central Government has provided assistance to Orissa in the years 1994-95 and 1995-96 for DPAP amounting to Rs. 516.50 lakhs and Rs. 403.85 lakhs respectively. In addition, the Central Government has provided large amounts for poverty alieviation programmes such as Integrated Rural Development Programme, Jawahar Rozgar Yojna/ Employment Assurance Scheme and for agricultural development programme including the National Watershed Development Project. A Long Term Action Plan for the (undivided) districts of Kalahandi, Bolangir, and Koraput has also been prepared and is under implementation with the major objectives of drought and distress proofing.

[Translation]

Railway Zones

*378. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of Zones and Divisions into which the railways network of the country is divided at present and the criteria for this division;

(b) whether there has been resentment at some places due to the creation of new Zones;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether earlier any Committee was constituted by the Government for creation of the new Zones;

(e) if so, the recommendations of the said Committee;

(f) whether the area-limit has been fixed for the new Zones proposed to be created in Rajasthan;

(g) if so, the details thereof;

(h) the criteria for the selection of Headquarters of the proposed Zone;

(i) whether the Government had received representations for setting up of the Zonal Headquarters at Ajmer and other places; and

(j) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) The present railway network is divided into 9 zones and 59 divisions. Zones/divisions are set up keeping in view factors like size, workload and accessibility, traffic patterns and other operating/ admini rative requirements consistent with the needs of economy and efficiency.

(b) and (c). A number of representations expressing resentment have been received particularly from Bilaspur and Hubli.

(d) and (e). An Advisers' Committee for reoganisation was set up (1994) which recommended creation of four additional zones (including one at Jaipur in Rajasthan) and six additional divisions.

(f) and (g). A final view on the detailed territorial jurisdiction of the zones/divisions has not been taken as yet.

(h) Zones/divisions are set up keeping in view factors like size, workload and accessibility, traffic patterns and other operating/administrative requirements consistent with the needs of economy and efficiency.

(i) Representations for setting up of zonal headquarters had been received for a number of places like Ajmer, Jaipur, Jodhpur, Bilaspur, Jabalpur, Bhubaneshar, Patna, Bangalore, Hubli, Barauni etc.

(j) The Government has decided to set up six additional zones with headquarters at Allahabad, Jaipur, Bangalore, Jabalpur, Hajipur and Bhubaneswar.

[English]

Gauge Conversion

*379. SHRI SATYAJITSINGH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD :

SHRI HARIN PATHAK :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the metre gauge/narrow gauge lines proposed to be converted into broad gauge during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) the time by which the remaining meter gauge/ narrow gauge lines are proposed to be converted into broad gauge;

(c) whether the Government have received proposal from the Government of Gujarat for conversion of metre gauge/narrow gauge lines into broad gauge;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the decision taken by Government thereon;

(e) whether the Government propose to take up gauge conversion projects in Gujarat through the private funding; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) The details of metre gauge/narrow lines converted into BG during the Ist four years of the Eighth Five Year Plan and those targetted to be completed during the remaining period of the Plan are as under: